

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.4% (535) reside in the Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (101) of Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 70.6% of admissions from the Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District were male and 29.3% were female.
- Over 60.3% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 88.2% of admissions were white non-Latino, 3.5% were black non-Latino, 3.9% were Latino, 0.9% were Asians, and 3.3% were other racial categories.
- 60.5% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 17% were married, and 14.3% reported not to be married now.
- 17.5% of admissions had less than high school education, 45.4% completed high school, and 37% had more than high school education.
- 40% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 10% of those admitted were homeless.
- 13.4% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	526	439	176	167	90	148	121
FY '96	585	503	197	150	78	137	112
FY '97	599	512	213	162	63	127	87
FY '98	641	528	228	154	77	158	125
FY '99	646	522	214	128	69	154	111
FY '00	648	531	217	126	60	184	160
FY '01	535	443	143	103	53	138	108

- Since FY 1995, residents of Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District reported a leveling off in marijuana, cocaine, and crack use, while alcohol and heroin use remained steady. Marijuana use decreased by 18%, cocaine by 38%, and crack use by 41%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Thirty-second Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	58.6 %	23.5%	8.7%	3.9%	0.7%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, alcohol and marijuana as a primary drug was higher, and, heroin and crack was lower within your District.